

1.(Previously Presented) A playback apparatus, comprising:

a data source that provides a data stream signal;

a device that is responsive to said data stream signal and forms a first data stream in a first data format, wherein said first data stream includes a data field in a second data format;

a code converter that is responsive to said first data stream, and converts selected parts of said first data stream in the second data format to a second data stream having data encoded in a third data format; and

an output decoder for selectively forming playback signals from the second data stream and a time delayed version of said first data stream.

2.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a buffer responsive to said first data stream that provides to said output decoder a third data stream indicative of said time delayed version of said first data stream whose data format corresponds to said third data format.

3.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 2, wherein said second and third data streams are selectively applied to said output decoder by a control unit.

4.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 3, wherein said code converter provides a detection signal (dz) to said control unit indicative of the presence of said first data format and/or said second data format, and said control unit determines whether to provide said second data stream or said third data stream to said output decoder in response thereto.

5.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 4, wherein said data source comprises a storage device that can be exchangeable/removable from said playback apparatus.

6.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 5, wherein said storage device is at least partially mechanically driven.

7.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 6, wherein said control unit changes the read rate of said storage device in response to the detection signal (dz).

8.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 7, wherein the read rate of said storage device is dependent upon speed of a motor that is regulated at a predetermined value by said control unit via a motor controller.

9.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 5, wherein said device comprises means for detecting an error in said input data stream and for providing a first error signal indicative thereof, said code converter comprises means for detecting an error in said first and second data streams and generating an second error signal indicative thereof, wherein said first and second errors signal are provided to said output decoder.

10.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 2, wherein said buffer provides temporal compensation between said second and third data streams.

11.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 5, wherein said storage device contains data assigned to a first data format, and that at least one data field of successive data packets of the first data format contains data packets of the second data format, whose contents correspond to the information to be reproduced.

12.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

a programming device that first converts data of the information to be stored to the second data format and provides a resulting data sequence that is then converted to the first data format to provide a data sequence that is written to said storage device to form stored data resident on said storage device.

13.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a manually controlled switch, wherein said second and third data streams are selectively applied to said output decoder by said manually controlled switch.

14.(Previously Presented) A playback apparatus that is responsive to a data stream signal provided by a data source, said playback apparatus comprising:

means responsive to said data stream signal, for forming a first data stream in a first data format, wherein said first data stream includes a data field in a second data format;

a code converter that is responsive to said first data stream, and converts selected parts of said first data stream in the second data format to a second data stream having data encoded in a third data format; and

an output decoder for selectively forming playback signals from said second data stream and

a time delayed version of said first data signal.

15.(Currently Amended) An audio playback apparatus that provides an audio playback signal to an audio transducer, said audio playback apparatus comprising:

a device that is responsive to an encoded data stream signal and forms a first data stream in a first data format, wherein said first data stream includes a data field in a second data format;

a code converter that is responsive to said first data stream, and converts selected parts of said first data stream in the second data format to a second data stream having data encoded in a third data format;

a buffer responsive to said first data stream and located electrically parallel to said code converter, that provides to said output decoder a third data stream whose data format corresponds to said third data format;

an output decoder for generating the audio playback signals; and

means for selectively applying one of said second data stream and said third data stream to said ~~to said~~ output decoder to form the audio playback signals that are output to the audio transducer.

16.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 1, comprising means responsive to said first data stream for providing said time delayed version of said first data stream.

17.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 1, wherein said code converter comprises a decoder that decompresses the selected parts of said first data stream in the second data format to provide said second data stream.

18.(Previously Presented) A playback apparatus, comprising:

a device that is responsive to a data stream signal and forms a first data stream in a first data format, wherein said first data stream includes a data field in a second data format;

an expander that is responsive to said first data stream, and based upon a compression factor in an auxiliary data field of the first data stream said expander expands said data field of said first data stream in the second data format to a second data stream having data encoded in a third data format; and

an output decoder for selectively forming playback signals from the second data stream and said first data stream which are selectively decoded by said output decoder under the control of a control unit.

19.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 18, wherein said expander comprises means for decompressing MPEG encoded audio.

20.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 1, wherein said code converter comprises means for decompressing MPEG encoded audio.

21.(Previously Presented) A playback apparatus, comprising:

a code converter that receives a first data stream in a first data format, wherein said first data stream includes (i) a data field in a second data format, (ii) a sync field and (iii) an auxiliary data field, wherein said code converter converts said data field to a second data stream having data in a third data format based upon information located in the auxiliary data field; and

an output decoder for selectively forming playback signals from said second data stream and

said first data stream.

22.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 21, wherein said converter converts said data field to said second data stream based upon compression information located in the auxillary data field.

23.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 22, wherein said compression information is indicative of an MPEG audio compression factor.

24.(Previously Presented) The playback apparatus of claim 21, where said playback signals include audio signals.